

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
COUNTY OF NEWPORT**

Approved 7/8/13

The Town Council of the Town of Tiverton, County and State aforesaid held a Joint Workshop with the Wastewater Management Commission on Monday, the 17th day of June 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the Tiverton High School Auditorium, 100 North Brayton Road.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councilor President Roderick, Vice-President deMedeiros, Councilor Chabot, Councilor Gerlach. and Councilor Lambert. Councilors Arruda and Pelletier were absent

Town Solicitor Andrew M. Teitz and Town Administrator James Goncalo were also present.

1. Call To Order

Council President Roderick called the Joint Workshop to order with a pledge of allegiance to the flag. Town Clerk Nancy Mello conducted the roll call for the Town Council.

2. Public Informational Meeting on Sewer System Construction Program

Leroy Kendricks, Wastewater Management Chairman conducted roll call for Wastewater Management (WWM). Members in attendance were Christopher Nearpass, Jeffrey Stearns, Michelle Tepfenhart, John Christo, Colleen Stanton and John Lincourt, WWM Superintendent. Thomas Parece from AECOM, WWM Consultant explained the presentation for the WWM Facilities Plan Update (the Plan). The purpose of the update was to reassess the need for sewers in the North end of Town, define limits of sewer needs area and provide a priority listing of sewer projects. Prior studies have been done, concluded the North end of Town would be best served by sewers. The RI Cesspool Act of 2007 requires all properties within 200 feet of the shoreline and other critical areas replace all cesspools by January 1, 2014. The Stormwater II and RIDEM study of 2011 found the shoreline to be contaminated with fecal bacteria commonly associated with failed septic systems. In that report RIDEM stated the Town must commit to a schedule to commence design and construction of sewers for those problem areas. The goals are to identify, prioritize, conduct a preliminary design, create a preliminary estimate, create a schedule, identify funding sources, create a financial plan and satisfy requirements of RIDEM and EPA. The findings were a documented need for better wastewater treatment, determined cost to install sewers in the north end and identified funding sources. Recommendations include expand the existing wastewater collection system, conduct a study, create a sewer district, develop a Capital Improvement Plan and continue to research and apply for funding sources including grants and low interest loans.

The sewer construction area would be broken into phases from Fall River to Riverside Drive. The three most critical areas are Riverside Drive/Stone Bridge area. Onsite systems average \$25,000 to \$60,000, average monthly cost over ten years in excess of \$210 per month. The projected cost for a sewer system is \$16,500 with an average cost of \$125 per month over 40 years. The Bay Street area has old cesspools and septic systems. An Onsite system in that area would average \$25,000 to \$30,000, average monthly cost in excess of \$270. A sewer system in that area would cost approximately \$11,000 with an average cost of \$105 per month. The Robert Gray area is an older neighborhood with cesspools and aging septic systems. In this area an onsite system would cost approximately \$151 per month, a sewer system would average \$115 per month over 40 years. Other neighborhoods have also been identified but with less critical needs. The proposed funding approach includes forming a Sewer District, applying for USDA loans and grants and repaying the loan with betterment fees over a 40 year term. Had neighborhood meetings. The results of this implementation addresses wastewater concerns in the Riverside Drive and Robert Gray areas, failed systems and identifies cost effective means. Questions included accuracy of cost estimates, annual charge rate, if contingencies were built in, Fall River's participation in this project. Mr. Kendricks explained estimates were conservative, have not had discussions with Fall River regarding the connecting fees. Questions about the Robert Gray area, clarification regarding the fees, contracts for each separate area, is it a majority vote of the people in that area. Mr. Parece explained if 500 were in that district and 100 people voted then 51 would be the majority. Concerned about the explanation of the district, would be a separate independent entity from the Town. Questions arose about the Interceptor line and the Industrial Park relative to sewers, negotiations with Fall River first before bringing the proposed project to the people. Would

have to take on a case by case basis those who already have an up to date system. Mr. Kendricks explained if the sewer district was voted down the residents would still be responsible for putting in on site systems, will be

consideration for those who put in systems. Questions arose about charging by water usage, opting out if owning a functioning system and if no easy access who pays. Mr. Kendricks explained some things still need to be established, trying to find facts to make an informed policy. DPW Director Steve Berlucchi duties included being the licensed operator for rainwater and Stormwater basins; have to come up with a plan for Robert Gray and Summerfield areas. Does not see in this plan addressing specific areas, have done illicit discharge testing probably caused from cesspools and failed systems. Mr. Kendricks explained the next step would be to ask the Council to approve a Facilities Plan Update.

At this time Councilor Roderick closed the Informational Hearing and called for motion to adjourn the workshop.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilor Gerlach motioned, seconded by Councilor Chabot to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

A True Copy.

ATTEST: _____
Nancy L. Mello, Town Clerk